

CIRCUS WA

TOGETHER WE CAN

BRINGING B'SPOKE TO THE STAGE



OUR CASE FOR SUPPORT



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

CircusWA acknowledges the Whadjuk Noongar People are the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara (custodians) of the land upon which we currently train, create and perform.



“

In my many years as a freelance professional circus artist, I've witnessed the great work that CircusWA has done in developing the art, character, and confidence of young Western Australians. Whether they become professional acrobats, tertiary-level students of circus, or nurses who can do backflips, CircusWA's programs imbue them with values and skills which will serve them, and their communities, for the rest of their lives.

I encourage you to support the important work of CircusWA in any way you can.

—
Ross Vegas
Independent Artist



“
One day during
rehearsals I looked
around the tent and
noticed a sense of
connection. I realised
as a team we were
working on something
greater than all of us.

—
Dayna Sulaiman, 17
Youth Troupe performer

**TOGETHER
WE CAN
DO MORE**

**Donate
online:**





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Cover: B'Spoke
Photo by Tashi Hall

THIS IS OUR CIRCUS REVOLUTION



WE'RE CONTRIBUTING TO A CONNECTED, INCLUSIVE AND BETTER WORLD...

... where youth of all backgrounds and abilities come to experience collaboration and creativity.

... where an exciting circus arts program stimulates an authentic exchange of ideas and friendship.

... where our community is introduced to the joy and energy of circus arts lending an essential and unique element to the rich canvas of Western Australia's creative and cultural output.

... where specialised programs extend accessibility to people of all abilities and transform and empower individuals and communities.

... where aspiring performers can enjoy a welcoming and inclusive environment to showcase their artistic endeavours.

**This is our circus revolution.
We need your support to
continue to have an impact.**

SIDE BY SIDE

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

As CircusWA continues to grow and deliver creativity and collaboration for our diverse groups of young people, the need for financial support remains crucial as we look to the future.

This year, we ask for your support of our disabilities program and B'Spoke – a joyful production celebrating the talents and experiences of six remarkable young people living with disabilities.

We aim to raise \$30,000 to complete the final stages of B'Spoke, a project in development since 2022. Your contributions, no matter the size, make a significant impact on the lives of our young participants.

CircusWA's commitment extends beyond B'Spoke. Our programs with Aboriginal youth and Act Belong Commit Youth Troupes continue to flourish, prioritising mental and physical wellbeing. We are contributing to our community strongly, providing equitable and inclusive spaces that will continue to grow in the future.

In 2024, we not only invite you to continue to support our circus revolution but to share the inspiration with your friends and family. Your support helps us expand our equitable and inclusive programs, fostering a stronger community.

Adelaide Harney, Scott Dennis, Leanne Puttick,
Jake Silvestro and Richard Longbottom
Board

Jo Smith
Artistic Director





“

As a current member of the WA Parliament, a former Fremantle Mayor and CircusWA's inaugural patron I am constantly impressed by the amazing works that CircusWA do.

Through their many wonderfully inclusive programs and workshops, including those curated programs for First Nation's and disabled groups, they create a lasting impact on young people in our community.



Dr Brad Pettitt MLC
CircusWA Patron

WE ARE CIRCUSWA

We are a training and youth performance organisation promoting excellence, inclusion and innovation in circus arts.

With community at our core, each year we engage approximately 400 students in our training programs and over the years we have helped thousands of young people develop into confident, healthy individuals who have gone on to pursue exciting careers.

Through our youth training and performance programs we are empowering young people to develop creativity and strengthen their voices to build a more connected, creative and inclusive world. We are supporting them to be the agents of change throughout their own lives.

The achievements of CircusWA to date are in no small part thanks to generous government and philanthropic partnerships. This support is essential to our creative output and survival. We are proud of the strong partnerships we've formed that are enabling us to develop programs with great impact.

We also couldn't achieve what we do without the ongoing encouragement and support of our circus community.

To all our students, performers, trainers, youth, Fremantle neighbours and circus community around Australia and beyond, thank you!

Over the next five years we are implementing a suite of strategies to grow our organisation responsibly so we can continue to make a lasting impact in our community. We will develop our advocacy role alongside the Physical Theatre sector, and strive to create a strong voice for circus arts in our State while engaging nationally with youth and circus groups.



TOGETHER WE ARE A COMMUNITY



“

CircusWA gave me the space and opportunities to develop as a young artist, along with the knowledge and support I needed to launch my circus career as a young adult. It will always hold an important place in my heart.

—
Maya Tregonning
Ensemble member of Gravity
and Other Myths (GOM)

STEP BY STEP

A glimpse into the incredible support of our government and corporate partners whose commitment to CircusWA is invaluable. We thank them for believing in us and our mission.

1980s

State Government gifted Fremantle's Old Customs House to the visual and performing arts sector.

2001-2014

Healthway begins ongoing funding for WA Circus School's community programs promoting 'Be Active'.

Lotterywest pledges ongoing funding to purchase new equipment and grow the delivery and quality of programs.

Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA) provides support via subsidised rent and one-off project grants for youth performances and projects for young artists.

2017

CircusWA moves to the Freo Big Top in Princess May Park with financial support from the **City of Fremantle**, **DADAA**, **Lotterywest**, **DCA Strategic Initiatives** grant, funding from the **Federal Government's Better Communities Programme** supported by **Josh Wilson MP**, and a successful community crowdfunding campaign.

1992-2001

Circus artists launch a training centre and with Government support establish a training and development program.

WA Circus School is incorporated in 2001.

2015-2016

New philanthropic engagement with **The Fremantle Foundation**.

The **Merenda Family Fund** generously funds four Hilton Aboriginal youth to attend circus training programs.

WA Circus School becomes **CircusWA**.

2018-2020

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC, formerly DCA) continues supporting program development with a *Strategic Initiatives* business development grant, plus a grant funding the annual Youth Troupe program.

Lotterywest COVID-19 Relief Fund grant received in 2020 helps alleviate significant impacts from the pandemic.



2023

Arts Organisational Investment (AOIP) received from DLGSC. Four year funding for Academy program.

Healthway multi-year funding for Scholarships and Developing Social Emotional Wellbeing in the Arts teaching practices.

2021

DLGSC Strategic Initiatives grant supports engagement with consultants Pracsys to develop Feasibility study and Case for Support for a State Centre for Circus and Physical Theatre.

Youth Troupe program supported with second year of program funds from **DLGSC**.

Biennial funding from **Healthway** supports outreach programming.

Creative Partnerships Australia awards Plus1 funding matching up to \$25,000 of philanthropic contributions. Matched funding goal realised.

2022

Telethon7 support engagement of youth with disabilities in circus.



Impact 100 Fremantle funding establishes Level Up Academy Youth Training Program.

Impact100

Fremantle

2024 ONWARDS

Stan Perron Foundation support disability led production, **B'Spoke**.



STAN PERRON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

B'SPOKE

**TRAINING &
DEVELOPMENT**





Our B'Spoke storytellers are our unique lighthouses shining a light into their imaginations.



2024 CAMPAIGN

BRINGING B'SPOKE TO THE STAGE

This year our annual fundraising campaign, Together We Can, seeks support for our Disabilities Program and the completion of B'Spoke, a thought-provoking and heartwarming circus and physical theatre show about a bespoke lighthouse that doesn't quite fit in with its more traditional counterparts. Delving into themes of individuality and acceptance, this captivating production is developed in collaboration with our Level Up Circus Academy and Disability Youth training program, 'Circus? You Can!'

B'Spoke gives children and teenagers living with disability opportunities to imagine more and dream beyond society's determination of their limitations. Through enchanting storytelling and inspiring circus arts, B'Spoke challenges stereotypes and promotes inclusivity by showcasing the creativity and capabilities of youth with diverse physical and intellectual abilities. This is what social circus is all about – welcoming and celebrating difference.

We aim to raise \$30,000 to finalise B'Spoke, a project in development since 2022. Your contributions, no matter the size, will help B'Spoke reach its main stage debut at Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre in July, and make a significant impact on the lives of our young artists.

Photo: Hugo Flavelle, performer and video artist, with Natano Fa'anana, Director of B'Spoke







TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE

B'Spoke celebrates the talents and experiences of six remarkable young people with disabilities through a mesmerising fusion of circus, multimedia, dance, and videography.

Through a fusion of circus, projection and physical theatre, the show takes you on a journey into the minds and imaginations of six young people we have come to know as our Storytellers.

Performing alongside the CircusWA Youth Academy performers, these youth have an opportunity to share their unique abilities, personalities and perspectives on the world. Along the way they are challenging stereotypes and the preconceptions of others about who they are.

With a focus on joy and empowerment, B'Spoke is a captivating and inspiring celebration of diversity and inclusion.



**TOGETHER
WE IMAGINE
MORE**



TOGETHER WE CAN FOR B'SPOKE

The journey began in 2022 with the first small performance in August at the Fremantle Town Hall. Since then we have continued to grow and develop the skills of all our youth so they can come together as one creative ensemble.

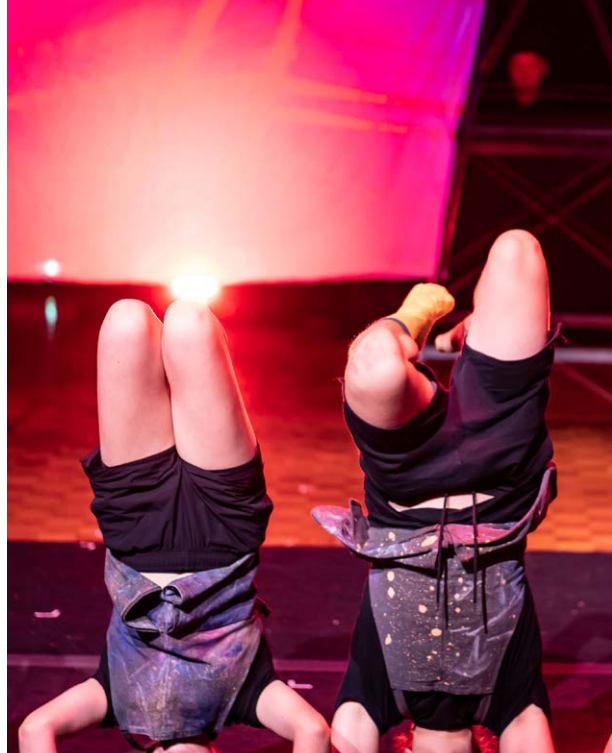
In July 2024 we will be bringing B'Spoke to full production at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre.

The creative developments and training so far has been supported by Telethon7 in 2023 and the Stan Perron Foundation for training and rehearsals in 2024.

Please help contribute to the success that will be B'Spoke in July 2024.



STAN PERRON
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION





**TOGETHER
WE CAN FLY**



**TOGETHER
WE CAN BE
STORYTELLERS**





**Donate
online:**



“

CircusWA is a place where young disabled people are welcomed in to participate, develop skills, and build friendships and confidence. Along the way they become a part of a local arts company. This breaking down of barriers facing children and young people with a disability is rare, requiring ingenuity and resources to support circus artists to develop and adapt their form.



Simone Flavelle
Producer & Consultant
My Place WA

SIDE BY SIDE



Circus helps so many people from every age and background. It welcomes them into a space where they can grow in confidence, learn physical skills and develop long life friendships within the community both locally and internationally. CircusWA's youth programs are key to the development of circus in WA.

Matt Yates
Karnidale Festival Director



As someone with both autism and extreme social and general anxiety, the CircusWA youth troupe has opened many doors in my life and helped me overcome my fears. By expressing myself through movement and theatrical arts, I have grown in self-confidence and made many important friendships and connections with other inspiring young performers.

Zoe Davidson
Sliders Youth Troupe Member





It's a pleasure to meet everyone at circus. I like spending time with people. I like making new friends. It means a lot to me.

Thank you for organising for me to be a part of CircusWA, I really appreciate it.



Jyrrah
B'Spoke Storyteller



Telling our stories through music and circus is helping to connect people and is the way knowledge is passed between generations. These experiences with our young kids are also teaching me about the immense diversity and possibilities of our physical and spiritual expression.

Natano Fa'anana
Director of B'Spoke

HELP BRING B'SPOKE TO THE STAGE

CircusWA's youth programs are made possible through one-off government grants, however ongoing annual funding is required to help us maintain the delivery of these important youth initiatives.

If our programs and the impact they are making resonate with you, please support us and make CircusWA's progress and impact a part of your own legacy.

Your support will help to ensure that emerging young artists of all backgrounds and abilities can participate in a dynamic circus journey here in WA.

Donations over \$2 to CircusWA via our giving platform at the Australian Cultural Fund are tax deductible.

Call us at 0435 374 492 to discuss giving opportunities that align with your interests.

circuswa.com/together

**Donate
online:**



AUSTRALIAN
CULTURAL
FUND.ORG.AU





TOGETHER WE CAN

“

The support and opportunity that CircusWA has given me over the past 15 years has been an integral part of my career, not only as a performer but as a theatre maker and director. CircusWA is a place where I can discover exceptional artists, be inspired by them, and create opportunities for them as we create exciting new Western Australian theatre.

—
Ella Hetherington
Independent Artist

“

CircusWA is the very foundation of my professional career. Their existence helped me turn my passion into my career, supporting me to fulfil my dream of being an international professional circus artist. They gave me a community which I now call my family.

Jeromy Nuuk

Director and Performer, Hands
Some Feet, Finland & Australia

A CIRCUS REVOLUTION FOR ALL



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